

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly cancel claims 2-6, 10-14 and 19-29, and rewrite claims 1, 7 and 9 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A flame-retardant material ~~used for ensuring a target object,~~  
~~which mainly comprises~~ comprising a polymer material[,] having a flame retardant ~~retardancy~~ as  
~~being~~ dispersed therein or immobilized on the surface thereof,

wherein the flame-retardant ~~material~~ contains:

(a) a metal-free group expressed as  $N_xO_y$  (where, x and y are ~~natural numbers~~ positive  
integers) comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of non-metallic nitric acid  
compound, non-metallic nitrous acid compound and non-metallic hyponitrous acid compound;  
and

(b) a group capable of generating water upon heating.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant material according to Claim 1, wherein the  
group capable of generating water upon heating ~~is contained in a form of~~ comprises a hydroxyl-  
group-containing compound.

8. (Original) The flame-retardant material according to Claim 7, wherein the hydroxyl-group-containing compound is a metal hydroxide.

9. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant material according to Claim 8, wherein the metal hydroxide ~~mainly~~ comprises ~~any~~ a compound selected from the group consisting of aluminum hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide and calcium hydroxide.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Withdrawn)

16. (Withdrawn)

17. (Withdrawn)

18. (Withdrawn)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Withdrawn)

31. (Withdrawn)

Kindly add new claims 32-37 as follows:

32. (New) The flame-retardant material according to Claim 1, wherein the group expressed as  $N_xO_y$  (where, x and y are positive integers) comprises ammonium nitrate, and the group capable of generating water upon heating comprises aluminum hydroxide.

33. (New) The flame-retardant material according to Claim 1, wherein the group expressed as  $N_xO_y$  (where, x and y are positive integers) comprises ammonium nitrate, and the group capable of generating water upon heating comprises magnesium hydroxide.

34. (New) The flame-retardant material according to Claim 1, wherein the metal-free group expressed as  $N_xO_y$  comprises 0.1 to 50 weight parts of the flame-retardant material added to 100 weight parts of the polymer material.

35. (New) The flame-retardant material according to Claim 1, wherein the group capable of generating water upon heating comprises 10 to 100 weight parts of the flame-retardant material added to 100 weight parts of the polymer material.

36. (New) The flame-retardant material according to Claim 1, wherein the metal-free group expressed as  $N_xO_y$  comprises 1 to 20 weight parts of the flame-retardant material added to 100 weight parts of the polymer material.

37. (New) The flame-retardant material according to Claim 1, wherein the group capable of generating water upon heating comprises 30 to 70 weight parts of the flame-retardant material added to 100 weight parts of the polymer material.